

## Introduction to Philosophy

MWF 10:20–11:10am

Duke University

West Duke 204

Spring 2006

### Teacher

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Office Hours: 11:30–12:15am, MWF

### Texts

Warburton, *Thinking from A to Z*

Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

Weston, *A Rulebook for Arguments*

Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things*

Sextus Empiricus, *Selections from the Major*

*Writings on Scepticism, Man, & God*

Plato, *Republic*

Karl Marx, *Selected Writings*

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals,*

*Twilight of the Idols*

Sigmund Freud, *Outline of Psychoanalysis, The*

*Future of an Illusion, Civilization and its*

*Discontents*

### Important Dates

Argument Schema.....02.13  
First Paper.....03.03  
Midterm Exam.....03.10  
Second Paper.....04.26  
Final Exam.....05.04

### Evaluation

Classroom Participation.....5%  
Reading Quizzes.....5%  
Logical Term Assignments.....5%  
Schema.....5%  
First Paper.....15%  
Second Paper.....20%  
Midterm Exam.....15%  
Comprehensive Final Exam.....30%

How should we live? Why do we suffer? How may we achieve peace of mind? What is it to fall in love? Are there differences between men and women? If so, are they natural or nurtured? What is the difference between reason, emotion, and mere desire? Do dreams mean anything? Is there a soul? Does it survive bodily death? Or is matter all there is to the universe? What is God like, if there is a God? Can we know whether God exists? Can we know anything? Are we free to choose our fate, or does Fate determine us to act as we do? What is justice? Who should have political power to enforce it? Should the powerful also censor art? What is art? Does it lead us toward the truth or away from it? And what is truth? Is there such a thing? Or is it merely illusion in fancy clothes?

These are some of the questions we shall examine in this course, focusing in the first half on four philosophers of Greek and Roman antiquity, in the second half on three German philosophers of the two most recent centuries. Specifically, we shall read Plato's great work, *Republic*, as well as representatives of Epicureanism (Lucretius), Stoicism (Marcus Aurelius), and Skepticism (Sextus Empiricus). After the break, we turn to some writings of Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Sigmund Freud. With the help of these thinkers, we shall investigate important philosophical questions, but we shall also appreciate better our own intellectual heritage. For the answers given by these seven philosophers are still very much with us today.

## Syllabus

	<p>01.11</p> <p>What is Philosophy?</p> <p>Content Method History</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p>assertion argument premise conclusion validity deduction sound argument paradox analogy, arguments from disanalogy</p>	<p>01.13</p> <p>Marcus Aurelius</p> <p>Stoicism</p> <p>2.11, 2.16–17, 3.2, 4.1–4, 4.10, 4.14, 4.21, 4.24, 4.27, 4.40, 4.46, 4.48–49, 5.13, 5.16, 5.26</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p>conditional statements antecedent consequent necessary and sufficient conditions iff</p>
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<p>01.16</p> <p>MLK</p>	<p>01.18</p> <p>Marcus Aurelius</p> <p>Stoicism</p> <p>6.5, 6.10, 6.13–14, 6.16, 6.57, 7.22, 7.66, 8.3, 8.12, 8.21, 8.24, 8.28, 8.48, 8.51, 8.54, 8.57, 8.28, 9.39, 9.42, 10.3, 10.7, 10.11, 10.16, 10.26, 10.33, 10.35, 10.38</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p>affirming the antecedent denying the consequent denying the antecedent affirming the consequent</p>	<p>01.20</p> <p>Marcus Aurelius</p> <p>Stoicism</p> <p>11.1–3, 11.8, 12.3, 12.5, 12.12, 12.14–15, 12.20, 12.23, 12.26, 12.28, 12.30, 12.34, 12.36</p> <p>Weston, 40–52</p>
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<p>01.23</p> <p>Lucretius</p> <p>Epicureanism</p> <p>1–19, 28–31</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p>formal fallacy <i>non sequitur</i> spurious 'therefore'</p>	<p>01.25</p> <p>Lucretius</p> <p>Atoms</p> <p>35–43, 49–57, 60–61</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p>consistency contradiction contraries</p>	<p>01.27</p> <p>Lucretius</p> <p>Mind and Spirit</p> <p>68–72, 76–77, 79–90, 94–98, 101, 109–14, 128–29, 167–70</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p>refutation equivocation begging the question circular argument</p>
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<p>01.30</p> <p>Sextus Empiricus</p> <p>Skepticism</p> <p>31–44</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p>genetic fallacy correlation=cause confusion <i>post hoc ergo propter hoc</i> some/all confusion alternative explanations</p>	<p>02.01</p> <p>Sextus Empiricus</p> <p>The Modes</p> <p>44–76</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p>counterexample rash generalisation black-and-white thinking false dichotomy</p>	<p>02.03</p> <p>Sextus Empiricus</p> <p>Logic, Physics</p> <p>100–8, 113–128,</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p><i>reductio ad absurdum</i> absurd consequences move empirical anecdotal evidence induction</p>
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<p>02.06</p> <p>Sextus Empiricus</p> <p>Man</p> <p>131–51</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p>assumption supposition imply/infer enthymeme</p>	<p>02.08</p> <p>Sextus Empiricus</p> <p>Man</p> <p>151–71</p> <p>Weston, 1–23</p>	<p>02.10</p> <p>Sextus Empiricus</p> <p>God</p> <p>175–95</p> <p>Weston, 24–39</p>
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02.13 Sextus Empiricus God 195–215 <b>Schema Due</b>	02.15 Plato <i>Republic</i> , 1 1–35 Weston, 79–85  Warburton  hypothesis dictionary definition truth by adage exception that proves the rule <i>ad hoc</i> clauses humptydumptying stipulative definitions Socratic fallacy family resemblance term	02.17 Plato <i>Republic</i> , 2 36–66
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02.20 Plato <i>Republic</i> , 3 66–102 Weston, 53–58	02.22 Plato <i>Republic</i> , 4 103–35 Weston, 59–63	02.24 Plato <i>Republic</i> , 5 136–75 Weston, 64–70
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02.27 Plato <i>Republic</i> , 6 176–207	03.01 Plato <i>Republic</i> , 7 208–37	03.03 Plato <i>Republic</i> , 8 238–69 <b>Paper Due</b>
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03.06 Plato <i>Republic</i> , 9 269–96	03.08 Plato <i>Republic</i> , 10 297–326	03.10 <b>Midterm Exam</b>
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## Spring Break

<p>03.20</p> <p>A Very Brief Survey of Medieval and Modern Philosophy</p> <p>Fallacies</p> <p>Weston, 71–78</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p>‘that’s a fallacy’  <i>ad hominem</i> move          getting personal          irrelevance          emotive language          complex questions          prejudice          proof by ignorance          biting the bullet          companions in guilt move  <i>tu quoque</i>          vested interest          Ockham’s razor          rationalisation          bad company fallacy          wishful thinking          gambler’s fallacy          bad reasons fallacy          knock-down argument</p>	<p>03.22</p> <p>Marx</p> <p><i>Communist Manifesto</i>, 1</p> <p>157–69</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p>democratic fallacy          ‘everyone does it’          truth by consensus          truth by authority          kowtowing          universal expertise</p>	<p>03.24</p> <p>Marx</p> <p><i>Communist Manifesto</i>, 2–4</p> <p>169–86</p> <p>Warburton</p> <p>zig-zagging          devil’s advocate          drawing a line          slippery slope arguments          domino effect          pedantry          newspeak          jargon          ‘that’s a value judgement’</p>
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<p>03.27</p> <p>Nietzsche</p> <p><i>Genealogy of Morals</i>, 1</p> <p>1–33</p>	<p>03.29</p> <p>Nietzsche</p> <p><i>Genealogy of Morals</i>, 2</p> <p>35–66</p>	<p>03.31</p> <p>Nietzsche</p> <p><i>Genealogy of Morals</i>, 3</p> <p>67–118</p>
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04.03 Nietzsche <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> 3–37	04.05 Nietzsche <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> 38–42, 68–91  rhetoric persuader words persuasive definition devil's advocate pseudo-profundity rhetorical questions smokescreen sophistry straw man shifting the goalposts vagueness red-herrings irrelevance	04.07 Freud <i>Outline of Psychoanalysis</i>  Part 1
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04.10 Freud <i>Outline of Psychoanalysis</i> Parts 2 –3	04.12 Freud <i>The Future of an Illusion</i> Sections 1–5	04.14 Freud <i>The Future of an Illusion</i> Sections 6–10
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04.17 Freud <i>Civilization and its Discontents</i> Chapters 1–2	04.19 Freud <i>Civilization and its Discontents</i> Chapters 3–4	04.21 Freud <i>Civilization and its Discontents</i> Chapters 5–7
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04.24 Freud <i>Civilization and its Discontents</i> Chapter 8	04.26 What is Philosophy?  <b>Paper Due</b>	
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**Comprehensive Final Exam:** Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm–10pm.